

# PILOT OF THE MONTH

ROBERT CHARLES SNODDY

From printer's devil to CAT pilot is probably the best way to describe the career of Captain Robert C. Snoddy. In fact the company which prints the CAT BULLETIN told Bob he could have a job with them anytime he decided to come down to earth.

Like many another CAT pilot Bob is a Pacific veteran of world war II where he served as a Navy Pilot with the 115th Bombing Squadron of the 7th Fleet. This unit incidently was a B-24 outfit.

It all started when Bob decided to take up flying in 1940 under the Civilian Pilot Training program in his native state of Oregon. While this training was going on Bob found himself in a defered Selective Service status. This lasted until 1942 when the pinch really began to hurt so when he got bucked back to his draft board he fooled them by hopping up to Seattle and enlisting in the Navy. With his civilian flight training down on the record it wasn't long before Bob was a Naval Aviation Cadet off to Corpus Christi, Texas to let the Navy take up where the CPT program left off. After Corpus Christi Bob was transfered to Navigation School in Hollywood, Florida. When the Navy decided that Ensign Snoddy had learned all they could teach him he found himself a part of the 115th Bombing Sqd. headed for the Pacific.

During 1943 and until November 1944 Bob had a chance to see quite a bit of the Pacific. Bob modestly admits to holding a Naval Air Medal with four stars on its ribbon, a Purple Heart, several battle stars and some other 'lettuce' not worth mentioning. He is also credited with bringing down two Japanese planes. The record also shows that he participated in the Battles of New Guinea, The Soloman Islands, New Georgia and about all the rest of the slam-bangers that took place in the area until the famed Battle of Suragao Straits which pretty much finished off Japan's Imperial Navy.

Between scheduled battles Bob flew anti-sub, anti-shiping and recon patrols leading up to and through the Invasion of Layte.

In November 1944 Bob along with his outfit returned to the States for reassignment. He found himself ressigned to a reorganized 115th and in 1945 the unit returned to the Pacific. It only got as far as Hawaii when the Pacific War ended. Bob remained in service until 1946 when he took his discharge in Hawaii with the rank of Lt. (SG).

Bob was attending Oregon State University majoring in aeronautical engineering when he entered the service. So after spending another year in Hawaii flying co-pilot for Hawaiian Airlines and Trans-Pacific Airline he returned to the States to go back to college. While in Hawaii Bob ferried one of CAT's first planes from Hawaii to China in 1947.

When he returned he enrolled at the University of Wasnington to continue his aeronautical engineering studies. In 1948 he joined CAT and says that as a pilot with the World's-Most-Shot-At Airline he has been shot at but not hit.

Bob is a native of Roseburg, Oregon where he grew up and went to school. While in High School he worked as a printer's devil and still maintains an interest in the printing trade.

During his Navy

tour in Florida Bob and a very charming young lady by the name of Charlotte Dillard who like Bob hails from Roseburg decided that war or no war they should get married so as soon as it could be arranged they were...in Miami.

Today the six foot one, thirty year old Bob and Charlotte make their home in Tokyo where between flights Bob indulges in his favorite hobbies...pix taking and philately.

Lately Bob chalked up a first to his credit. CAT recently sold one of its CESSNAS to the Tokyo Mainichi and Bob piloted it on its first flight under the Mainichi colors.



CAT Captain Robert C. (Bob) Snoddy.  
民航隊隊長史諾弟